

Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, & Supplies (DMEPOS)

Competitive Bidding Program – Round 2021

Off-the-Shelf (OTS) Back & Knee Braces

**Did your doctor order
an OTS back or knee
brace?**

**Do you live in or visit a
competitive bidding
area (CBA)?**

**If you answered “Yes” to both questions,
read this important information!**

Does the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program affect me?

The Competitive Bidding Program affects you if you have Original Medicare and live in a CBA or get an item included in the program while visiting a CBA. You generally must get a prescribed OTS back or knee brace from a “contract supplier” if you want Medicare to help pay for the item.

Why was this program put in place?

Congress passed the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program into law in 2003 with limited changes in 2008 and then was expanded in 2010 to:

- Reduce your co-payments by lowering the approved amount.
- Save taxpayer money. The projected cost sharing savings for people with Medicare is \$120 million from 2021-2023.
- Limit Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse.

What are contract suppliers?

These suppliers have contracts with Medicare to provide OTS back and knee braces in the CBAs and must provide the prescribed OTS brace to you.

How do I know if I live in or am visiting a CBA?

The DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program is concentrated in large metropolitan areas. Learn if where you live or visit is included by doing one of the following:

- Search the Medicare Supplier Directory at [Medicare.gov/supplier](https://www.medicare.gov/supplier).
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.
- Check with your supplier.

Who can I call if I have questions and concerns?

Contact 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

